



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

---

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html)

---

**MARCH 15, 2006**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Court documents associated with this case are available to download  
from the district's Web site at*

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/news2006/brown\\_complaint.pdf](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/news2006/brown_complaint.pdf)  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/news2006/brown\\_charges.pdf](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/news2006/brown_charges.pdf)  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/news2006/brown\\_affidavit.pdf](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/news2006/brown_affidavit.pdf)

## **ALTON WOMAN CHARGED IN MURDER-FOR-HIRE**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that an Alton, Mo., woman has been charged in federal court with attempting to hire an undercover law enforcement officer to murder her husband.

**Kari Jolene Brown**, 36, of Alton, was charged in a two-count criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Springfield on Tuesday. **Brown**, who was arrested at her home last night, appeared in federal court this morning and awaits a detention hearing scheduled on Friday.

Count One of the criminal complaint alleges that **Brown** traveled from Missouri to Arkansas on March 4, 2006, with the intent that the murder of Randy R. Brown be committed for a payment of \$10,000.

Count Two of the criminal complaint alleges that, from Feb. 28 to March 13, 2006, **Brown** solicited another person to engage in criminal conduct that involves the use of force against another person, that is, the murder for hire of Randy R. Brown.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, **Brown** was looking for someone to murder her husband when she was contacted by an undercover law enforcement officer. At a meeting a few days later, **Brown** agreed to pay the undercover officer \$10,000 to murder her husband and provided him with a photograph of her husband and a description of his vehicle. At their final meeting, at Mammoth Springs State Park on March 4, 2006, **Brown** took her three children to the playground then handed the undercover officer \$440 as a down payment.

In a telephone conversation on March 13, 2006, **Brown** told the undercover officer that she would give him another \$1,000 after he killed her husband the next day, and that she would be selling some of her possessions in order to raise the rest of the money.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the complaint are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard E. Monroe. It was investigated by the U.S. Forest Service and the South Central Drug Task Force.

\*\*\*\*\*

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html)